The Southern PATRIOT

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Cirrhosis and Cancer

Cirrhosis of the liver and cancer of the mouth won't get rid of Fascism.

On December 21, 1946, Georgia's Governor-elect Eugene Talmadge, "The Wild Man from Sugar Creek," passed to his reward. Early in January, Mississippi's Senator-elect Theodore G. Bilbo, "The Man," went to New Orleans for an operation. But neither the burial of the red suspenders nor the doffing of the red tie represent, in themselves, any gain for democracy in the South.

This has become evident for all to see. When Talmadge was buried, the Associated Press reported: "A huge floral wreath stood near the open casket with the bare inscription *KKK*." The day before his much-publicized operation, Bilbo gave a three-column interview harping on his Fascist theme "mongrelization."

The organized people, not the Grim Reaper, will free the new, determined, democratic South of the malignant and cirrhotic attacks upon its body politic. Fuehrer-demagogues mean to let the dead bury the dead. They plan to carry on.

Surgery and interrment there must be—but at the voting-booths and through public assembly and pressure. Anti-democracy has seen to it that European Fascism survives a "lost" Hitler and a hung Mussolini. Southern Fascism will not die under an anaesthetic nor be buried in the McRae Cemetery.

No learning in political pathology is required to understand what virus is loose in Georgia. An Associated Press story of January 16th states plainly: "Herman Talmadge, in a predawn coup backed by National Guard officers and state highway patrolmen, seized Georgia's executive department today."

Succession by lineal descent, utterly foreign to American tradition, has, for the time being at least, been putsched into one of the 48 United States. The father, "White Supremacy Gene," was rejected by a majority of Georgia voters in the Democratic primary, but "elected" via the unit vote system. Son Herman ("The Pretender," as Ellis Arnall rightly calls him) has the support of exactly 675 Georgians who, knowing that the old man's days were numbered, cast that many write-in votes for him.

The Capitol of Georgia has been seized from the people of Georgia by force and violence—and by a man who is an avowed member of the American Storm Troopers, the KKK.

And Bilbo? Exposed by two Senate Committees as a usurper elected to the United States Senate by threats of physical violence to Negro citizens of Mississippi, and by large-scale misuse of public funds, Bilbo is fighting for time. Temporarily refused his Senate seat, he hides behind a post-operative treatment and counts upon the lethargy of the people and the succor of kindred spirits like Ellender of Louisiana.

Meanwhile his "gifts" from war contractors—his Cadillac, his newly painted "Dream House," his "church," his freely dug lake—not to mention $68,000 of the people's money gained from "business transactions"—rest on his estate carved from the bodies of Mississippi serfs.

The hopeful thing is that courageous—and increasingly numerous—people and organizations in both Georgia and Mississippi are demanding democracy.

The dangerous thing is that many liberal-minded folk, in these states and elsewhere, think that biology and "gradual improvement" will do the job.

The evident thing is that Dixie Demagoguery is staging a stiff comeback, spending millions (some of it from Wall Street) to bring Fascism first to the South, then to the whole USA.

The urgently necessary thing is for all progressive people and groups to come out unitedly into the ring, swinging hard, never losing a minute, to deal body-blows — like that of the Georgia students who burned Talmadge's effigy—to the further "mongrelizing" of the Bill of Rights with "Mein Kampf."

The Champion, Democracy, gets ready to knock out Talmadge-Bilbo-KKK Fascism. Joe Louis, guest-of-honor at a Southern Conference for Human Welfare dinner in New York December 16th, shakes hands with Clark H. Foreman, S.C.H.W. President, as Frank Sinatra, master of ceremonies, and Carole Landis, beam.

A Fireside Chat About the Southern Conference

Franklin D. Roosevelt is enshrined in the hearts of millions of Americans as the president who told them the truth about what was going on in the country and called on them to do something about it. His famous fireside chats made him a member of the family circle in countless homes from Maine to Southern California, from the Lakes to the Gulf.

Despite the caterwauling of the monopolists, despite the never-ending needling of greedy vested interests, North and South, he went right on explaining "the facts of life" to the man and woman in the street, the home, the office, the factory and the field. He told them "again and again" that the prosperity and democracy of the country rest in their hands.

This piece is dedicated to that tradition. As the year 1947 peeps over the edge of history, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare enjoys unprecedented opportunities and is faced by very acute problems. That's the sort of year 1947 is for our kind of organization. The situation can be met by the Conference membership—that is, by you—and by no one else. So draw up a chair for a fireside chat. And let's leave a place for FDR. He'd feel at home.

No matter what the problems, FDR was always confident because of his firm belief in the common people. So let's look at the immense opportunities right at our front door. Let's see what the South and the Nation expect—and have a right to expect—from the Conference. Let's see what the Conference is prepared to deliver.

The progressive South, the progressive Nation as a whole, expect the Conference, in 1947, to take giant's strides in leading its section of the country toward a democratic revolution. They expect the Conference to do battle in smiting the Philistines—the many who, unlike Talmadge, are alive and kicking; who, unlike Bilbo, are hale and hearty. They expect the Conference to deliver body blows to those who uphold colonialism, poverty, prejudice, sickness, ignorance: the brokendown school, the non-existent hospital, the open shop, the feudal field.

Is that an exaggeration? Not if the newspapers mean anything. During the last three months of 1946, the Conference was in the press as never before. The liberal commercial press, the labor press, the farm press and many miscellaneous professional and fraternal organs, supported it. The reactionary press naturally attacked it. They all recognized it as a growing factor in the economic, social and political life of the South.

The Conference stands ready to meet this challenge. Its New Orleans Southwide Convention proved this in many ways. The growing vitality of the SCHW Committees in half the Southern states proves it daily. The constant flow of inquiries and expressions of support coming into the New Orleans Headquarters from all sections of the South and the Nation proves it. The loyalty, confidence and generosity of the Conference membership prove it.

History doesn't daily. In decisive years like 1947, things get better or worse for the common people quick. Since the war, generally speaking, they've been getting worse. The big trusts, the Wall Street Republican Party and a spineless Democratic administration in Washington have been seeing to that. And it's true both North and South, though inspiring democratic determination is being shown at many points. The opportunity of the Conference to help turn the tide is *now*. Six months ahead, greed, reaction, confusion and division may be so firmly in the saddle that movements like the Conference will be put on the defensive. Today they have the golden opportunity to move forward offensively for democratic principles and a secure life for the people.

In other words THIS is the time when the Conference can and must get thousands of new members. THIS is the time when its Committees must realize their full possibilities as focal points of progressive thought and action in their states; THIS is the time when the full impact of the Conference's program must be felt in the Nation's Capital.

So much for our opportunity. Now let's look soberly at the difficulties. It has been said that an army travels on its belly. A progressive organization like the Conference travels on its finance. Soldiers can't fight well when they're hungry and organizations can't function without a minimum financial foundation. We say "minimum" because the Conference is an economical organization that stewards your money carefully.

The Conference now lacks this rock bottom money. Let's face that and see what it means. It doesn't mean that many individuals and foundations and organizations have not contributed generously — sometimes, sacrificially. It doesn't mean that there was any lessening in financial support during 1946—quite the contrary. It doesn't mean that old and new friends of the Conference are any less ready than ever to put financial granite under its program.

What it means is this. Several hard facts have gotten together and created a crisis. Among the principal ones are:

1. The Conference has conducted a far greater number of practical campaigns for security and democracy in the South during 1946 than ever before. The effectiveness of these fights has not always been matched by the adequacy of their financial support.

2. The Conference has grown—because its members and the people of the South have demanded that it grow—into a strong triangular function. It is a Southwide progressive membership organization with a Legislative Office in Washington. It is a confederation of Southern state educational, social and political action bodies, with a vital committee in New York City. It is the publishing center of a monthly magazine and of an increasing quantity of pamphlets and other forms of progressive literature. Once again, this expansion—an expansion which it would have been socially criminal to neglect or reject—has not been fully buttressed financially.

3. Inflation has begun, as Claude Pepper said so eloquently at the New Orleans SCHW Convention, "to rob the people of their substance." It is definitely harder for most people to give money to causes in which they believe than it was a year ago.

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

CLARK H. FOREMAN, *President*
TARLETON COLLIER, *Secretary*
J. DANIEL WEITZMAN, *Treasurer*

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, *Administrator*
FRANK C. BANCROFT, *Assistant Administrator and Editor*

4. Related to this, costs for all Conference expenditures — printing, supplies, equipment, salaries, travel, etc.— have risen with the general skyrocketing of prices. This makes credit tighter, too.

5. There has not been sufficient understanding that the $2.00 minimum membership fee, which includes a year's subscription to THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT, barely covers the cost of service and production and therefore does not contribute to reenforcing the Conference's total financial stability.

The result of these factors and others is that the Conference's financial situation today is *definitely precarious*. This is not a "promotional" article. Neither is its purpose to frighten the membership nor to give aid and comfort to the Conference's enemies. We are attempting to set forth the simple fact that convictions and aspirations cannot be harnessed socially and politically without a certain minimum of money. That minimum is not now available. It can and must be made available. The garden variety members of the Conference stand at the center of that picture.

Let us explain that statement. The enemies of the Conference often allege that it is supported from the North. That is not true. It is true the SCHW Committee in New York is doing yeoman's service in getting *supplementary* financial support from Northerners who realize that a prosperous, progressive, democratic South is indispensable to the Nation's security and freedom. But it is impossible to help anyone or anything that does not help itself. And the Conference has helped and will help itself. From its very beginning, it has raised the greater part of its finance in the South from the people of the South.

The enemies of the Conference also allege that labor unions supply the principal part of the Conference's expense. This, too, is false. Again, it is true that some CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhood and independent unions have contributed to the Conference because of its vital relationship to economic security and political democracy, the two foundation-stones of organized labor. Here again, however, the contribution has been *supplementary*.

The enemies of the Conference have alleged (and friends of the Conference have apparently, at times, believed) that foundations and wealthy individuals have supplied the principal financial foundation. This, again, is not the case. They have helped and, as in the case of those groups already mentioned, it is essential that they continue *supplementing*.

Freedom of the Million Dollar Press, Unless . . .

Our readers have probably noticed that the last few issues of *The Patriot* have been printed on a superior stock. As it happens, it is more superior than we can afford. We're glad our readers like it, but the fact is, it was forced on us by the shortage of newsprint.

Nor is that the whole story. The supply of both ordinary newsprint and this stock is dangerously low. For this reason, and also because printing costs have skyrocketed, the present issue, Vol. 1 No. 1 of 1947, is dated February instead of January.

We have naturally done a little inquiring about the situation and the fact seems to be that America's huge and extremely tight paper monopoly (dominated by the wealthy daily press) is forcing liberal and labor publications to the wall by the simple device of depriving them of paper—or compelling them to use paper at a cost they cannot pay.

Readers can have their say about such a situation by bringing pressure to bear immediately upon Nebraska Republican Senator Kenneth S. Wherry. Wherry, a reactionary with an infamously anti-social record, is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business which is responsible for dealing with this matter.

Without such action there is acute danger that we will all shortly be confined, for our "understanding" of the "news" to the Hearst and Scripps-Howard chain sheets and such purveyors of poison as *The Nashville Banner*, *The Charleston News and Courier*, *The Savannah Morning News* and *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*. The paper monopoly will see that they get their "share" of paper without interrruption or Senate intervention.

There is more than one way of killing freedom of the press. Let's protect it for ourselves and others. We'll need it.

The principal source of income of the Conference has been, remains, and must continue to be its membership, its sale of literature and the contributions of generous Southern individuals. In order to meet today's crisis—a crisis of growth, remember—two things must happen. You are the one who can see to it that they do happen.

1. There must be an *immediate* and *wide* increase in membership. A certain amount of this can be accomplished through mail promotion by the New Orleans Headquarters and the state committees. But there is no substitute for the good old American tradition of sitting down with a friend and explaining to him why you believe in and support something, why you are confident he will, when he understands it. That's the way, incidentally, the backbone of the New Deal popular support was built up. Write us for a dozen copies of the attractive question-and-answer folder about the Conference to help you do this.

2. Your own membership should be brought up, for 1947, to one of the sustaining rates—and kept there. Under today's conditions, the minimum $2.00 rate barely pays for its own direct costs. Frankly and financially speaking, it makes you a passive member of the Conference. So get into a huddle with yourself and your family and decide how active you would like to be: A Patron Member at $100; a Sponsor Member at $25; a Donor Member at $10; or a Supporter member at $5. Let's leave the $2 membership to new friends who are just learning about the Conference.

This is a lot of talk about money, we know. But, in reality, it is talk about better wages, lower prices, improved farm conditions, a free and universal franchise, better education, better public health facilities. It is talk about the Ku Klux Klan, the Columbians, Bilbo, and Gerald L. K. Smith. It is talk about a fraternity of Southern progressives from all walks of life, from all religions and races, from all states and countries, who love and believe in their section of the country, who have faith in the future contribution of the South to American prosperity and democracy.

If you see the picture, please don't lose time. If it's membership folders you need, get them from your state committee or let us know at once. If it's a little nerve or incentive, think of a Southern mill town or a sharecrop plantation or a lynching. Then think of *millions* of new Southern voters who can pour into booths from Virginia to Texas and change all that. Money you raise for your Conference has that, and only that, objective.

As Mary McLeod Bethune said at the New Orleans Convention, let's have "the wisdom, the discipline and the creative energy to continue the fight." We will surely win it if we tackle it soon and seriously enough.

Facing South: Round Table With a Sharp Point

"Facing South" is the title of a recent 12-page discussion guide published by the National Institute of Social Relations, 1029 Seventeenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. It is obtainable for 10 cents, 100 copies for $7.50.

The title suggests a Northern perspective. As a matter of fact, the District of Columbia, a disfranchised area, is variously claimed and disclaimed by both sections. In its by-laws, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare has "adopted" it as a Southern state. Before the present Republican reorganization of Congressional Committees, none other than Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi was its "mayor".

The present status of the South is discussed under five principal headings. What Are the South's Resources and Deficiencies? How Does the South Matter to the Rest of the Country? Should Cotton Still Be King? Should the South Go Industrial? How Can the South Get Real Reconstruction?

"Facing South" is recommended as a stimulating discussion outline for all groups, in whatever section of the country, who are interested in the South's relationship to American life as a whole. Quotations from the outline follow:

Some have called the South "America's India"—a rich prize held in economic bondage by the North. Many Southern social scientists have pointed out the *essentially colonial character* of the South's economy. Like colonies all over the world, the South finds its main job to be furnishing the men and raw materials for making and distributing finished products *elsewhere*.

The South has but 10 of the Nation's 200 largest non-banking corporations, but 500 of the nearly 5,000 firms that sell merchandise to retail drug stores, one-thirtieth of the life insurance, one-sixteenth of the demand and time bank deposits, and pays but one-twelfth of the income taxes of the Nation.

Very few would say that it is a good thing for the rest of the country to keep the South in a state of colonial dependency. Though the profits on Southern resources and wages for turning them into finished products go largely to enrich other sections, the net loss to the Nation is much greater than the gain.

The low purchasing power of the masses of Southern people means that they can't buy the products of farms and factories in other regions. Economists point to the South as the Nation's greatest untapped market. Leon Henderson estimates that to raise Southern living standards to the national level would create an added ten billion dollars of purchasing power annually!

Ever since immigration from Europe slackened, the nation has looked to the South for its population increase. The region exports *about* 250,000 *adults a year* to other sections. This is why it has come to be called "seed-bed of the nation." Most of the South's high birth rate is attributable to its rural areas, where educational, health, and general cultural standards are the *lowest in the country*. It is from these sections that the migrants come to swell the populations of Detroit, Akron, Chicago, Los Angeles and other industrial centers.

One out of every eight persons born and educated in Alabama or Mississippi —overwhelmingly rural states — moves away and puts in his working years in another state.

How the South's children are reared and educated should be a very real concern of the states in which many of these children will spend their adult years. If they arrive illiterate or semi-literate, warped in mind and body by childhood hardship, they will inevitably drag down the level of citizenship in the communities where they settle. Demagogues rise to power with the support of such uneducated and underprivileged people. They form the base of un-American mass movements like the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Legion.

Lincoln knew that the nation could not continue "half slave and half free." Neither can it continue half independent and half colonial. It is definitely to the advantage of the rest of the country, social scientists say, to bring to an end, as speedily as possible, the era in which the South has been kept in colonial bondage, "forced to trade the richness of its soil, its minerals and forests, and the labor of its people for goods manufactured elsewhere," in the words of the *Report on Economic Conditions of the South*.

The machine politicians of the South sometimes stay in Congress for dozens of years. Through seniority, they gain a stranglehold on the legislative processes of the whole nation. "In the last three elections," says the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, "the turn-over rate among non-poll-tax Representatives has been 98 percent greater than among poll-taxers. Fourteen poll-tax Congressmen have been in Congress 20 years or more. These veterans become experienced legislative tacticians, experts on rules and methods, past masters of political maneuvering and 'log-rolling'."

The maintenance of a colonial South is likely to lead to a rebirth of Southern "nationalism"—hatred of the "damyankees" can still be aroused by clever demogogues. Such a nationalist movement would probably be of a fascist character. Should it arise, what would prevent its crossing the Ohio and the Potomac and infecting the rest of the country, as the KKK once did—and is already threatening to do, again?

A Democratic Southerner Exposes Dixie Fascism

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE by Stetson Kennedy. Doubleday & Company: New York. 372 pages. Illustrated. $3.00.

Members of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and their guests at the recent New Orleans meeting heard President Clark Foreman recommend *Southern Exposure* as "a dynamo of facts for action."

Its author, Stetson Kennedy, is one of the most active members of SCHW. He attended the New Orleans Convention as a member of the Georgia delegation and authored the civil liberties resolutions adopted unanimously by the Conference. He is further known to Conference members as the author of numerous articles in *The Southern Patriot*, including the special issue exposing the "Christian Americans" (unions and other groups distributed 150,000 copies), and more recently "The Truth About *Militant Truth* (quantity lots are available to unions troubled by that open shop sheet).

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, who has never lived outside the South, Kennedy has a grandfather who fought for the Confederacy, and two Southern antecedents who signed the Declaration of Independence. No "damnyankee", certainly.

A comment by Aubrey Williams, publisher of *The Southern Farmer* and a board member of SCHW, appears on the jacket of the book: "Everyone who values his freedom and rights should read *Southern Exposure*."

And Witherspoon Dodge, former SCHW field representative, has this to say about *Southern Exposure* in an upcoming issue of *Survey Graphic*: "This book is a veritable powerhouse of information. It both provides light, and generates a destructive and constructive force certain to help produce a changed South . . . As for the Negro, no Southern writer has ever gone as completely all-out for his rights as has Kennedy . . . On these points the pussy-footing pen-pushers of the South who dwell aloft in their ivory towers are bombed by a Southerner with an unprecedented barrage of logical high explosives."

Ex-Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia, who was given the SCHW Thomas Jefferson Award at New Orleans, has praised *Southern Exposure* in reviews appearing in the *Atlanta Journal*, *New Republic*, *New York Post*, *Cleveland News*, and other periodicals. Gov. Arnall, who is himself the author of the epochal *The Shore Dimly Seen*, says, "*Southern Exposure* makes good reading, and is a strong weapon against intolerance. Mr. Kennedy is a researcher who deals with facts. These native fascists are the handy men of sinister influences bent on keeping the South in economic slavery and stealing the fruits of its human and natural resources."

An authoritative Negro spokesman, P. L. Prattis, executive editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, has written: "I'm going off the deep end for *Southern Exposure*. I'm caught up by this young white man's book. I not only accept his facts, figures, and other documentation as a valuable addition to the handy reference volumes on the race problem, but I also endorse and applaud his sense of strategy in the battle of race. I'm in Stetson Kennedy's corner, and we'll come out fighting *together*. *Southern Exposure* is distilled common sense, personalized and standing up on its hind legs."

In his final chapter, "To Make the South Safe for Democracy," Kennedy goes all-out for SCHW as the outstanding instrumentality for expediting Southern progress.

"Fortunately there is in the South an organization through which all branches of organized labor, as well as the farmers' unions, are cooperating with other community groups in a far-reaching program of political and educational action," he writes. "This is the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, whose salutary influence has frequently been noted."

Citing the action of the first Convention in resolving never to meet where segregation is imposed, Kennedy writes: "Needless to say, such an uncompromising stand was enough to incur the enmity of every agency of white supremacy in the South, and the Conference has since been subjected to many a smear. But its good work continues to speak for itself and to win it an ever-broadening mass membership, truly representative of the South's decent-thinking people."

"OFF with the head!" Stetson Kennedy, author of "Southern Exposure," demonstrates the Ku Klux Klan ritual which signifies the death penalty for anyone who reveals the hooded order's secret—as he does in his book.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare Reports:

Virginia: Teachers and Labor

The Committee for Virginia went into political high gear when little 1947 was only eight days old. A special meeting of the Virginia Legislature was called into session January 6th and special action on the Committee's part was forthcoming two days later.

The immediate issues are teachers' salaries and anti-labor legislation. So Chairman Henry W. Fowler and the executive board rallied the membership, while Executive Secretary Virginia Beecher began opening doors in Richmond and telling public officials how the common people of the state feel.

We quote in full a wire sent to four state legislators principally responsible for teachers' salary levels. It is presented to our readers as news and also as an example of a good public pressure telegram:

"You and your fellow committee members are respectfully urged to report out for support a bill increasing teachers' salaries substantially above the inadequate levels recommended by the Governor.

"Virginia already ranks far too low in the scale of expenditure for public education per pupil per teacher. Our obligation to this generation of children to provide a high grade training is paramount. If additional revenues from existing surpluses are available, they should be used for this purpose. If not, the means must be found by increased taxation or by use of the state's credit.

"An investment in our children's future is a good risk. We cannot afford the false economy of excessive job turnover in our teaching profession or an increasing deficit in our supply of competent teachers or the continued demoralization of our trained teaching personnel.

"Our membership, drawn from all sections of the state, includes doctors, lawyers, ministers, businessmen, industrial and office workers, students, housewives and farmers, as well as a few teachers. They stand for improved educational standards for Virginia including adequate teachers' salaries, not as partisans for the teachers, but as citizens interested in the public welfare. Would appreciate your including this petition in any record of your committee proceedings on this subject."

Deciding not to leave the record to chance, on January 8th Virginia Beecher appeared before the combined House and Senate Education Committees and read the telegram into it herself.

January 11th the Board of Directors of the Virginia Committee met and took comparable action against two anti-labor bills recommended to the special session by Governor Tuck. The Committee sees the open shop and compulsory arbitration as being as detrimental to the public welfare as low educational revenues.

Hats off to Virginia for getting the drop on all other SCHW State Committees in effective, hard-hitting legislative activity.

Louisiana Works up Steam

The next regularly scheduled session of the Louisiana Legislature is May, 1948, but the Louisiana Committee isn't waiting until then to launch a practical social and political program.

Executive Secretary Sam Carothers reports that 350 new SCHW members have been recruited since the Thanksgiving Convention and that the minimum goal for 1947 has been set at 1,000 more.

Following a statewide Board meeting December 16th, the New Orleans membership met January 9th in the Telephone Workers Union Hall to hammer out an activity and financial program for the year. Adopting a 9-point program based on the SCHW Convention program for 1947-1948, immediate priority was given to:

1. A campaign to widen use of the franchise in Louisiana.

2. A campaign for retention of federal rent controls, adoption of state and local controls to buttress it, and vigorous pressure for immediate low-rent housing construction.

3. Conducting a thorough economic, industrial and social survey of Louisiana's material and human resources and of the factors impeding their realization.

Unanimous support for this program is being expressed from all parts of the state.

The Louisiana Committee is also completing a novel "installment plan" financial foundation for its work, whereby contributions of from $1.00 to $10.00 a month will be pledged by members.

North Carolina Greets 1947

The North Carolina Committee greeted the new year with vigor. It has published a pamphlet "Your Part in North Carolina Politics" which lists the names and counties of all state representatives and explains "how, why, when, and where to write them."

A Greensboro Temporary Organizing Committee has been set up, comprising Henry Stanley, attorney and former city councilman; Dr. Polly Duffy, professor at Woman's College, University of North Carolina; and N. L. Gregg, Greensboro NAACP Director. This committee proposes to "jump right in on a local special election to be held to determine whether a special tax shall be levied to give teachers a supplemental pay boost in the city schools."

A state-wide legislative conference has been called for January 22 in Raleigh. Robert Cahoon, Greensboro attorney, was scheduled to preside over the conference, while scheduled speakers were Forrest Shuford, State Commissioner of Labor, State Senator Lawrence H. Wallace and State Representative Rev. J. I. Memory. In addition to SCHW chapter delegates, the conference was to be attended by representatives from the NAACP, AFL, CIO, AVC, locals of the State Teachers's Association and the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen.

Other planned activities are one-minute spot announcements on small radio stations concerning the votes of various state assemblymen; building up a library of film-strips and movies; and sending a regular legislative bulletin to all SCHW members in the state.

Alabama Adopts Strong Program

Full support of Governor-elect James E. (Big Jim) Folsom's program for state betterment was voted by the Advisory Council of the Committee for Alabama meeting in Birmingham December 30th. Opening the meeting Aubrey Williams, Editor of *The Southern Farmer* and Chairman of the Committee for Alabama, stated, "The Committee will take immediate steps to increase its membership and establish chapters in every part of the State. We will do everything possible to organize grass roots support behind the Roosevelt Democrats who now hold three major political offices in the State."

After discussing a report by Executive Secretary Malcolm C. Dobbs, the following 10 point program was adopted for 1947.

1. Campaign to greatly increase educational expenditures for all children.

2. Campaign to abolish the poll tax and secure state reapportionment.

3. Support court test of constitutionality of Boswell Amendment.

4. Conduct study of state absentee voting law.

5. Support use of voting machines in all elections.

6. Urge appointment of State Civil Rights Committee and support enactment of State Civil Rights law and federal Civil Rights law.

7. Support enactment of state minimum wage bill and improvement in state child labor law.

8. Support enactment of fair employment practices legislation.

9. Conduct campaign to eliminate police brutality.

10. Support legislation to aid veterans and low-income farmers.

The Advisory Council also voted to sponsor a high school essay contest on "Why the Poll Tax Should Be Abolished", with an all-expense trip to Washington as first prize. Plans were made to hold a statewide membership meeting of the Committee for Alabama early in the Spring.

Washington Hits on All Six

Secretary of the Senate Leslie M. Biffle got a petition recently from the Washington Committee. It was 184 feet long and contained 5112 names. Dealing with the municipal government aspect of the Bilbo issue (Bilbo has been "Mayor of Washington") this is what it said:

"WHEREAS we, the voteless people of Washington still have a right to petition Congress, we therefore solemnly

PETITION the Senate of the United States not to humiliate further those of us who live in the Nation's Capital City by assigning to the Committee on the District of Columbia a confessed member of the Ku Klux Klan, Senator Thomas G. Bilbo. If we must be ruled as a colony, with taxation without representation, we implore our rulers to assign to the District Committee only Senators who believe in democracy, the Constitution and equal rights for all our citizens."

In recent weeks the Washington Committee has also:

1. Held a community-wide meeting of civic leaders to push a Council of Social Agencies Survey recommending abolition of all arbitrary segration in the District.

2. Participated in organizing a civic defense group to support employes of government cafeterias in a threatened strike.

3. Set up a Health Committee to review a recent District survey and to take appropriate action.

4. Given active support to the "consumer resistance" movement, taking leadership in the Emergency Committee for D. C. Rent Control, fighting a blanket increase in the D. C. Rent Control Act.

5. Worked with the American Crusade to End Lynching which met in Washington January 2 and 3 to bring pressure against the seating of Bilbo.

Tennessee Develops Chapters

The Committee for Tennessee is devoting concentrated attention to the creation and development of chapters in the leading cities of the state. Groundwork has been laid in Knoxville, Oak Ridge and Nashville.

Because of inadequate finances, the Committee for Tennessee has been compelled, temporarily, to dispense with the services of an executive secretary. William Cornelius has left this post of responsibility to serve as International Representative, United Public Workers of America, CIO, Birmingham.

Georgia Prepares for Onslaught

The Committee for Georgia's Executive Secretary Margaret Fisher reports that careful plans for 1947 organizational, legislative and financial activities are being laid. No matter when or how the Talmadge-Thompson gubernatorial struggle is settled, the Commmittee is convinced that the resurgent anti-Arnall forces in the state will make a powerful effort to repeal all primary laws and restore the "white primary."

The Committee is also readying itself to rally liberal Georgians to combat a proposed sales tax and a number of pieces of legislation aimed at crippling organized labor in Georgia.

New York Goes To Town

Inspired by the challenge of the SCHW Convention in New Orleans, the New York Committee has launched a major campaign of support. In addition to the four headliners shown on the front cover, Jennings Perry and Percy Green participated in the highly successful December 16th dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in honor of Joe Louis.

As this is being written, work is being completed for a full-house benefit showing in mid-January of the socially significant Broadway musical, "Finian's Rainbow."

Big plans for major events in March and April will be announced in the next issue.

Miami Housing Campaign

Bayfront Park is a beautiful spot in Miami, but ordinary Miami citizens somehow prefer sleeping indoors. This was the message the Fourth Congressional District, Florida, Chapter of SCHW participated in conveying to the Miami Apartment House Association at a mass open-air rally January 9th.

Here's how it happened. The organized landlords had appealed to the Florida Congressional delegation for "relief" from rent ceilings. The Dade County Consumers' Council (in the establishment of which the SCHW chapter played a substantial part) decided to let everyone know how the citizens feel. A mass rally was called at which representatives from the following organizations addressed a crowd of more than 1500: Miami Beach Tenants League, FDR Club, League of Women Shoppers, Jewish People's Order, IWO, Electrical Workers, Air Transport Union, SCHW.

At the meeting announcement was made of wires received from Senators Pepper and Holland and Representative Smathers indicating decided coolness to the removal of rent ceilings.

Chaired by Rev. Joseph Barth, Miami Unitarian minister, the rally sent a resolution to President Truman and Congress calling for continuance of rent